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 All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending March 28, 2014

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

<u>Steers</u>				<u>Heifers</u>			
	Range	Average	Change from last week		Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	200-225	207.80	-3.10	300-400	180-203	189.33	-6.67
400-500	202-226	211.50	-3.60	400-500	183-207	193.33	+0.58
500-600	198-224	210.70	+3.14	500-600	180-201	189.50	+2.75
600-700	182-209	197.17	+3.67	600-700	171-192	177.75	+0.05
700-800	170-191	179.70	+1.60	700-800	157-174	164.75	+0.85
800-900	157-170	164.75	-1.00	800+	140-159	147.75	-3.65
900+	141-157	149.25	-1.92				

Source: Canfax.

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

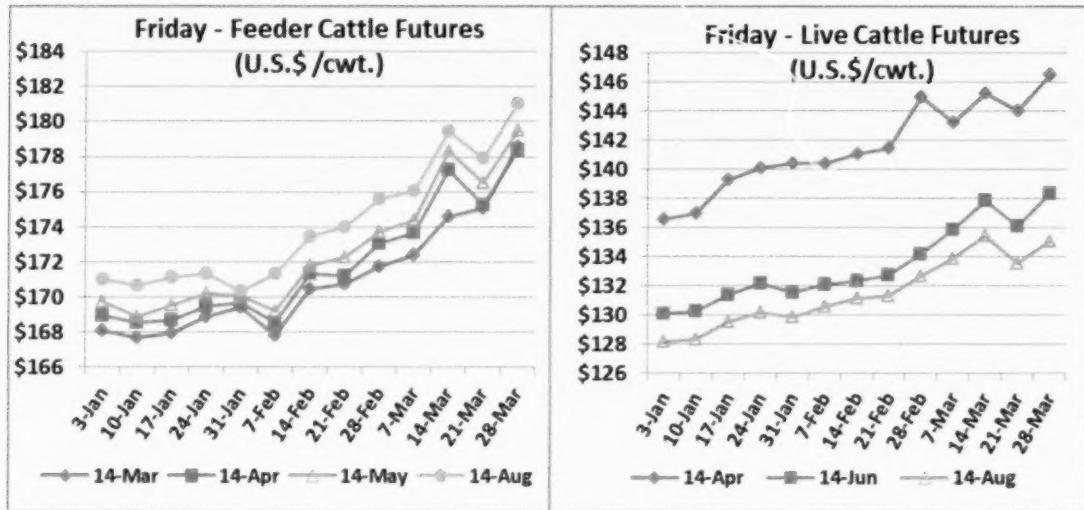
Canfax reported that a total of 11,197 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, down from 17,101 head marketed the previous week.

Saskatchewan feeder steer prices were mixed over the week but mostly lower. Feeder steer prices ranged from \$3.60 per cwt lower to \$3.67 per cwt higher, from the previous week. The biggest gains were in the 600-700 lb. weight category which increased by \$3.67 per cwt. The largest losses were in the 400-500 lb. weight category with losses of \$1.60 per cwt. All feeder steer categories had losses except the categories between 500 and 800 lb.

Feeder heifer prices were mixed but overall higher over the week. Feeder heifer prices ranged from \$6.67 per cwt lower to \$2.75 per cwt higher, from the previous week. The 500-600 lb. weight category had the biggest gain over the week increasing \$2.75 per cwt, while the 300-400 lb. weight category had the largest losses at \$6.67 per cwt. The feeder heifer categories between 400 and 800 lb. had price increases with the remaining categories having losses. All feeder steer and heifer categories that had price increases over the week set new record high prices.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the March 27, 2014 U.S. feeder cattle index at US\$178.55 per cwt was calculated at -\$17.77 per cwt (US\$178.55/0.9042 - \$179.70), a basis widening of \$0.90 per cwt from -\$16.87 per cwt on March 20, 2014.

Feeder cattle futures prices were higher over the week with new record high prices on Thursday, before Friday's pullback. The March to August 2014 contracts increased between US\$3.000 and US\$3.525 per cwt, week-over-week. The March contract settled the week and expired at a record price of US\$178.550 per cwt, while the August contract settled the week at US\$181.025 per cwt.



Source: CME

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Live cattle futures prices were higher over the week with record high prices on Thursday for many contract months including April and June, before a slight pullback on Friday. The April to August 2014 contracts increased between US\$1.575 per cwt and US\$2.500 per cwt, week-over-week. The nearby April contract settled the week at US\$146.50 per cwt, while the August contract increased US\$1.575 per cwt to settle Friday at US\$135.075 per cwt.

Iowa cash corn prices and the nearby corn futures were higher over the week. The Iowa cash price on Friday was US\$4.65 per bushel, up 15 cents from US\$4.50 per bushel the previous Friday. The May corn futures contract was up 13 cents to settle Friday at US\$4.92 per bushel.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	March 28	March 21	Change
Cows (Alberta)			
D1.2 Live	102.00	99.60	+2.40
D3 Live	90.60	87.00	+3.60
Rail	197-202	195-200	+2.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were higher over the week breaking new record highs with D1,2 slaughter cows increasing \$2.40 per cwt to average \$102.00 per cwt while the price of D3 slaughter cows increased \$3.60 per cwt to average \$90.60 per cwt.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada were higher over the week breaking new record high prices. Fed steer prices in Alberta were reported at \$145.55 per cwt, up \$3.74 per cwt from \$141.81 per cwt the previous week, and up from the last record price of \$142.52 per cwt set in late January.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at a new record high price of US\$152.21 per cwt, up US\$1.34 per cwt from US\$150.87 per cwt the previous week, and up 19.2 per cent from US\$127.74 per cwt the same week a year ago. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US\$243.53 per cwt, up US\$2.09 per cwt from US\$241.44 per cwt the previous week, and up 19.9 per cent from US\$203.08 per cwt the same week a year ago.

Choice beef cutout prices (600-900 lb.) were lower and averaged US\$239.57 per cwt, down US\$2.84 per cwt from US\$242.41 per cwt the previous week, but up 26.2 per cent from the same week a year ago. Beef production for the week averaged 465.4 million lb., up 1.5 per cent from 458.3 million lb. the previous week, but down 1.0 per cent from the same week a year ago.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (March 28)	Week of: (March 21)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US\$)		.9042	.8921
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US\$ per cwt)		178.55	173.93
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		755	767
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US\$ per cwt)		152.21	150.87
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge (\$/tonne) (\$ per bu.)	192.00 4.18	184.00 4.01
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN\$/tonne)* (US\$ per bu.)	202.46 4.65	198.58 4.50
	Omaha, NE (CDN\$/tonne)* (US\$ per bu.)	205.07 4.71	192.85 4.37
Futures			
May Corn (US\$ per bu.)		4.92	4.79
July Corn (US\$ per bu.)		4.96½	4.83¾
April Live Cattle (US\$ per cwt)		146.500	144.000
June Live Cattle (US\$ per cwt)		138.350	136.125
March Feed Cattle (US\$ per cwt)*expiry		178.550	175.025
May Feeder Cattle (US\$ per cwt)		179.500	176.500

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News
 * conversion to CDN\$ is based on Friday's CDN\$ closing rate

Note: Cow-calf producers in Saskatchewan are reminded to check with their local market operators regarding current market conditions for non-fed cattle. Producers are also reminded that old, thin cows have a very low market value. The non-fed prices quoted each week do not represent the market price for these animals. As an alternative to transporting these animals, you may want to check with your local veterinarian or the nearest Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office to see if these animals are eligible for testing as part of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program. Producers receive \$75 from the CFIA for each eligible sample submitted. The goal of this program is to prove that the BSE control measures implemented in Canada are working.

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